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Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, ENRG
SUBJECT: ITALY-USA COOPERATION IN GEOTHERMAL ENERGY RESEARCH
& DEVELOPMENT

1. /SUMMARY/ - DR. PAUL KRUGER, DIRECTOR OF GEOTHERMAL ENERGY RESEARCH FOR NSF, HENRYK UZNANSKI OF NSF'S OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS AND SCIATT, MET WITH PROF. LEARDINI - DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH OF ENTE NAZIONALE PER L'ENERGIA ELETTRICA (ENEL) AND MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF ON JAN. 13, 14, 15, AND 16, 1975 IN ROME AND AT THE LARDERELLO GEOTHERMAL FIELDS (SCIATT DID NOT ACCOMPANY) TO DISCUSS THE ENEL PROPOSAL SUBMITTED OCTOBER 1974 FOR A COOPERATIVE PROJECT ENTITLED "EXPERIMENT ON HOT DRY ROCK IN NON-GRANITIC FORMATIONS." THE PROPOSAL RESULTED FROM DISCUSSIONS HELD WITH DR. STEVER, DIRECTOR OF NSF, IN PISA IN JULY 1974. FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD ON THE PROGRAM BY PROF. ANGELINI, PRESIDENT OF ENEL, WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER IN ROME AS AN INDICATION OF ITALY'S CONTINUAL RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S CALL TO ESTABLISH THE ENERGY TASK FORCE AND HIS SUBSEQUENT RECOMMENDATION ON THE NECESSITY FOR INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO GENERATE NEW AND/OR IMPROVED SOURCES OF ENERGY.
THE MEETINGS WERE CONCLUDED WITH A LISTING OF RECOMMENDATIONS
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FOR COOPERATION FOR THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF ITALY AND THE US,

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I.E.,

1. THE STRENGTHS OF BOTH COUNTRIES WOULD BE COMBINED TO PROVIDE EARLY AND COST-EFFECTIVE RESULTS FROM THE COOPERATION.

2. THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE TO FACILITATE THE INTERACTION OF ACKNOWLEDGED EXPERTS OF EACH COUNTRY.

3. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ITALY WILL RECEIVE A RECOMMENDATION FROM ENEL THAT ITALY, IN COOPERATION WITH THE US, HOST A PROPOSED WORKSHOP ON RESERVOIR ENGINEERING UNDER THE CCMS PROGRAM IN LIEU OF A WORKSHOP IN THE US, TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR SPETEMBER 1975. /END SUMMARY/

2. DR. KRUGER MET WITH PROF. LEARDINI, DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH, DR. P. CERON, DIRECTOR OF THE GEOTHERMAL RESEARCH CENTER AND DR. R. CATALDI, CHIEF GEOLOGIST OF ENEL. DR. KRUGER WAS GIVEN A THOROUGH TOUR OF THE GEOTHERMAL FIELDS AND RESEARCH CENTERS OF ENEL (IN 1974 ENEL GENERATED THROUGH GEOTHERMAL ENERGY APPROXIMATELY 2.3 0/0 OF THE ELECTRIC POWER PRODUCED BY ENEL OR 1.75 0/0 OF THE TOTAL NATIONAL PRODUCTION OF ELECTRICITY). DR. KRUGER, IN TURN, GAVE EXCELLENT PRESENTATIONS ON AMERICAN ACTIVITIES - AS REPORTED BY ENEL, TO THE ITALIAN GEOTHERMAL COMMUNITY, INCLUDING PROFESSOR TONGIORGI OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (CNR).

3. DETAILED AND CONTINUING EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS DURING THE FOUR DAYS WERE SPENT ON THE PROPOSAL FOR AN "EXPERIMENT ON HOT DRY ROCKS IN NON-GRANITIC FORMATIONS," WHICH WAS SUBMITTED TO NSF BY ENEL IN OCTOBER 1974. AS A RESULT OF THESE DISCUSSIONS, AND FROM THE EFFORT CONDUCTED BY DR. KRUGER PRIOR TO HIS TRIP TO ITALY (PROPOSAL REVIEW AND EVALUATIONS BY SEVERAL AMERICAN EXPERTS THAT RESULTED IN FAVORABLE RESPONSES FOR THE PROPOSED PROGRAM), THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS WERE AGREED UPON:

1. THE US AND ITALY CONDUCT A COOPERATIVE PROGRAM IN THE RESPECTIVE DEVELOPMENTS OF THEIR GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES.

2. A LONG-RANGE PROGRAM BE ESTABLISHED TO ALLOW BROADENING OF THE PROPOSED COOPERATIVE EXPERIMENT TO MAXIMIZE THE BENEFITS
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ACCRUING TO EACH COUNTRY.

4. COOPERATION WOULD BE ACHIEVED WITH A SERIES OF PROJECTS MUTUALLY SELECTED BY TWO COORDINATORS, ONE SELECTED BY ITALY (ENEL) AND THE OTHER BY THE US (NSF/ERDA). THE COORDINATORS WILL ESTABLISH PROJECT PRIORITIES, DURATION AND SCHEDULES, AUTHORIZE BUDGET AND COST-SHARING ARRANGEMENTS UNDER A TOTAL BUDGET ASSIGNED TO THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM. EACH COORDINATOR

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WILL BE ASSISTED BY A TECHNICAL PANEL CONSISTING OF TWO OR THREE SENIOR SPECIALISTS WITH BROAD EXPERTISE IN GEOTHERMAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WHO WILL EVALUATE THE TECHNICAL OBJECTIVES, RECOMMEND AN APPROPRIATE SCOPE OF WORK AND ESTIMATE THE COSTS OF EACH PROJECT. THE COORDINATORS WILL SELECT APPROPRIATE SPECIALISTS FOR APRTICIPATION IN THE INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS. PROJECTS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN DELINEATED FOR INITIAL OR EARLY IMPLEMENTATION INCLUDE THE CONVEING OF APPROPRITATE WORKSHOPS, STIMULATION OF HOT-DRY-ROCK AND HYDROTHERMAL RESERVOIRS, UTILIZATION OF HOT BRINE RESOURCES, RESERVOIR PHYSICS AND ENGINEERING, DEEP DRILLING, AND ENVIRON-MENTAL CONTROL TECHNOLOGY.

5. IN ADDITION TO THE FOREGOING, ONE OF THE OBJECTIVES OF DR. KRUGER'S VISIT WAS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ASSIGNMENT TO NSF BY THE US CCMS GEOTHERMAL ENERGY COORDINATOR TO CONVENE A WORKSHOP ON RESERVOIR ENGINEERING UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE CCMS. DR. KRUGER IN CONSULTATION WITH EXPERTS IN THE US GEOTHERMAL COMMUNITY AND, IN VIEW OF THE RECENT MEETINGS IN LOS ALAMOS AND SAN FRANCISCO, FELT THAT A MEETING ON THIS TOPIC WOULD BE MORE-WIDELY ATTENDED BY THE WESTERN EUROPEANS IF IT WERE HELD IN ITALY. ACCORDINGLY, DR. KRUGER INQUIRED OF ENEL THEIR INTEREST IN THEIR HOSTING THE MEETING IN COOPERATION WITH THE US. ENEL RESPONDED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE AND WILL THEREFORE EXPLORE MEANS OF CONDUCTING THE WORKSHOP UNDER AUSPICES OF THE CCMS. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT THE MEETING COULD BE ONE OF THE WORKSHOP PROJECTS SUGGESTED UNDER THE PROPOSED ITALY-USA COOPERATIVE PROGRAM. THE EMBASSY WILL ENSURE THAT ENEL WILL ADVISE NSF ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS PROPOSED WORKSHOP.

6. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT:

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1. NSF MEET WITH DEPT TO COORDINATE THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE PROPOSED COOPERATIVE PROGRAM AND PREPARATION OF A DRAFT AGREEMENT FOR SUBMISSION TO TIALY FOR THEIR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.

2. NSF EXPLORE THE OPTIMUM METHOD FOR IMPLEMENTING THE US PART OF THE PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM, I.E., SELECT A PROGRAM COORDINATOR, TECHNICAL PANEL MEMBERS, AND EXPERTS FOR SPECIFIC PROJECTS.VOLPE

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